TIP 8 Consider the Different Varieties of General Educ STNETHOO

## Introduction / 1

TEXT BOX: THE PURPOSES OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION / 6

1 How Universities Work / 8

TEXT BOX: THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY / 12

TEXT BOX: A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE

ADMINISTRATION / 17

- 2 Choosing a College / 22
  - TIP 1 You Can Get an Equivalent Classroom Education at Most Reasonably Selective Colleges and Universities / 23

    TEXT BOX: NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS / 25
  - **TIP 2** The Key Distinction Is between Small Colleges and Large Universities / 26

TEXT BOX: WHERE DO PROFESSORS SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE? / 30

- TIP 3 Reputation Doesn't Matter as Much as You Think / 31
- TIP 4 The Main Importance of Reputation Is the Student
  Body It Attracts / 33

TEXT BOX: U.S. NEWS RATINGS / 34

TEXT BOX: MINORITIES AND COLLEGE CHOICE / 36

- TIP 5 Look for Signs of a Personalized Education / 36
- TIP 6 Consider the Cost / 37

- TIP 7 Differences in the Strength of Particular Departments Are Not Usually a Good Basis for Choosing among Colleges / 39

  TEXT BOX: CHOOSING A FOREIGN UNIVERSITY / 41
- TIP 8 Consider the Different Varieties of General Education Programs / 41
- TIP 9 Don't Worry; Most Students Are Happy with Their Choice / 43

## 3 Choosing Classes / 45

- TIP 10 Consider Visiting Multiple Classes during the First Week of the Semester / 46
- TIP 11 Usually Trust Your First Impressions / 47

  TEXT BOX: PRIORITIES IN CHOOSING CLASSES / 48
- TIP 12 Go for Variety, Especially Early On / 49
- TIP 13 At Least Once a Year Pick a Class That Doesn't Seem to Fit Your Interests / 50
- TIP 14 Take Classes with Heavy Writing Requirements / 51
- TIP 15 Take as Many Small Seminars and as Few Large Lecture
  Courses as Possible / 53

  TEXT BOX: WHAT DOES A GOOD LECTURE
  LOOK LIKE? / 56
- TIP 16 Take Mostly Upper-Division Courses / 57
- TIP 17 Focus More on Methods Than Topics / 58
- TIP 18 Seek Out Classes That Provide You with Continuous Feedback and Take the Feedback Seriously / 59
- TIP 19 Know the Status of Your Professors / 60
- TIP 20 Learn to Be a Critical Reader of Student Evaluations of Faculty / 63
- TIP 21 Ask Professors You Know What Courses They Would
  Recommend / 65

TIP 22 Take Courses That Relate to Each Other / 66 TIP 23 Study Abroad for at Least One Semester if Not an Entire Year / 67 TIP 24 Don't Succumb to the "Two Cultures" / 68 TIP 25 Don't Try to Get All of Your General Education Requirements Out of the Way in Freshman and Sophomore Year / 70 TIP 26 Audit Classes That You Don't Have Time to Take / 71 TIP 27 Consider Independent Study Classes / 72 TIP 28 Don't Take Too Many Classes with One Professor / 73 TIP 29 Don't Be Afraid to Exceed Requirements / 73 TIP 30 Unless You Plan to Major in Chemistry or Biology, Leave Medical School Requirements until Later / 74 TIP 31 Either Take Foreign Language Classes Seriously or Try to Place Out of Them / 75 TIP 32 Be Discerning in Choosing Internships for Credit / 76 TIP 33 Take Prerequisites with a Grain Of Salt / 77 TIP 34 Consider Graduate Courses / 77 4 Choosing a Major / 78 TIP 35 Sample a Lot of Different Departments / 79 TIP 36 Choose a Major That You Love / 80 6 Interacting with P TEXT BOX: SOME NEGLECTED MAJORS / 81 TIP 37 Find Out What You Are Good At / 83 TIP 38 Don't Worry Too Much about the Job Prospects of the Major / 85 TIP 39 Choose Smaller Majors / 86 TIP 40 Choose More Structured Majors / 87 TEXT BOX: WOMEN AND THE SCIENCES / 88

|   | TIP 41 | Go to an Academic Lecture Given in the Department / 89                        |
|---|--------|---|
|   | TIP 42 | Be Skeptical about Double or Triple Majoring / 90                             |
|   | TIP 43 | Write a Senior Thesis / 91  |
|   | TIP 44 | Don't Get Too Stressed Out over Your Choice / 93                              |
|   |        |   |
|   | Being  | Successful / 95   |
|   | TIP 45 | Manage Your Time / 95   |
|   | TIP 46 | Show Professors That You Are Working Hard / 96                                |
|   | TIP 47 | Join a Small Study Group / 97   |
|   |        | TEXT BOX: WHAT GRADES MEAN / 97   |
|   | TIP 48 | Ask for Help / 99   |
|   | TIP 49 | Don't Let Your Instructors Suspect That You Are Taking Advantage of Them / 99 |
|   |        | TEXT BOX: GRADE INFLATION / 100   |
|   | TIP 50 | Learn the Rules of Critical Thinking and Apply Them Constantly / 102          |
|   | TIP 51 | Professorial Shortcuts for Writing / 106                                      |
|   | TIP 52 | Professorial Shortcuts for Doing Research / 108                               |
|   |        | TEXT BOX: SELF-CARE / 110   |
|   |        |   |
| 6 | Intera | acting with Professors / 112  |
|   |        | Be Respectful / 112   |
|   | TIP 54 | Be Curious about the Subject / 113  |
|   |        | TEXT BOX: INTERACTING WITH FEMALE PROFESSORS / 114                            |
|   | TIP 5  | Visit All Your Professors during Office Hours<br>at Least Once / 115          |

TIP 56 Get to Know at Least One Professor Well / 116

- TIP 57 Find Out What Your Professors Research / 117
  TEXT BOX: "TENURED RADICALS" / 118
- TIP 58 Send E-mails Judiciously, Answer E-mails Promptly / 119
  TEXT BOX: WRITING AN EFFECTIVE E-MAIL / 120
- TIP 59 Avoid Complaints about Grades / 121
- TIP 60 Become a Research Assistant / 123
- TIP 61 Ask for Recommendation Letters from Professors Who Know You Well / 124

## 7 Learning Outside the Classroom / 127

- TIP 62 Get Involved in Extracurricular Activities / 127
- TIP 63 Subscribe to an Intellectual Magazine / 128
- TIP 64 Read Academic Blogs / 129
  TEXT BOX: ACADEMIC BLOGS / 131
- TIP 65 Attend a Public Lecture Every Week / 132
- TIP 66 Spend Your Free Time in Coffeehouses / 133
- TIP 67 Make Friends with People Who Have Different Beliefs and Experiences / 134
- TIP 68 Get to Know Foreign Students / 136

## 8 Going to Graduate School / 138

- TIP 69 There Seldom Are Strong Reasons to Go to Graduate School Immediately after College / 138
- TIP 70 Learn More about the Career Graduate School Is Leading To / 140
- TIP 71 Graduate School Is Not Just Advanced Undergrad / 141
  TEXT BOX: GETTING FELLOWSHIPS / 142
- TIP 72 Ask Your Professors' Advice about PhD Programs in Their Field / 143

TIP 73 PhD Programs Are Not for Training Teachers / 144

TEXT BOX: TYPES OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS / 145

TIP 74 Prestige Does Matter for PhD Programs / 146

TIP 75 Talk to Current Grad Students / 147

9 Secrets of the Guild: Rules Professors Live By / 149

RULE A Reduce Thy Teaching Load / 149

TEXT BOX: THE CAMPUS NOVEL / 151

RULE B Publish or Perish / 153

RULE C Pamper Grad Students / 155

RULE D Limit the Effort You Devote to Undergraduates / 156

TEXT BOX: HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR PROFESSORS / 159

RULE E Play the Market / 160 001 \ 29018 oimsbro A head A 811

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / 163

RECOMMENDED READING / 165

INDEX / 167